

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Public Workshop on Water Quality and the Truckee River

Truckee, CA — August 30, 2002 — The Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC), the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) and the California Center for Public Dispute Resolution (CCPDR) are convening an open and collaborative effort to develop a sediment control plan for the Truckee River. A public workshop titled "Our Truckee River – Protecting Water Quality" will launch the project. The workshop will be held September 9, 2002 3:30-6:30pm, Northstar-At-Tahoe, Chaparral Room.

The workshop will inform the community of the project, hear the community's interests about sediment and water quality, and begin to craft a sediment control plan that takes the community's interests into consideration and uses the collective knowledge and experience of community members.

This will be the first of several workshops and meetings.

The Truckee River sediment control plan is officially called the Truckee River TMDL. TMDLs are long range pollution control plans to improve water quality. TMDL is the acronym for Total Maximum Daily Load. It refers to the maximum amount of a pollutant a body of water can hold without violating State standards or damaging the body of water or the fish and other life in the water. TMDLs describe what damage a pollutant has caused, the sources and allowable amounts of the pollutant, and the steps necessary to control the pollutant. In the Truckee River, sediment is both a natural element and a pollutant. Sediment is considered a pollutant pursuant to the Clean Water Act.

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board is the agency responsible for developing and implementing the Truckee River TMDL. The LRWQCB is committed to working with the community to develop a TMDL that incorporates the community's concerns and needs and that uses the community's wisdom in identifying ways to control sediment in the Truckee River.

The collaborative effort will bring together local governments, businesses, and environmental and community groups to develop a common understanding of the sediment conditions of the Truckee River, including each other's relevant interests and issues. The groups will then work toward developing the TMDL and an implementation plan.

For additional information contact:

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Our Truckee River – Protecting Water Quality, a public workshop on the Truckee River sediment control plan. September 9, 2002, 3:30-6:30pm, Northstar-At-Tahoe, Chaparral Room.

The Truckee River Watershed Council was founded in May 1998 to develop and implement locally developed public-private collaborative solutions to protect and improve water quality and biological resources for the sustainable environmental and economic health of the Truckee River watershed.

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